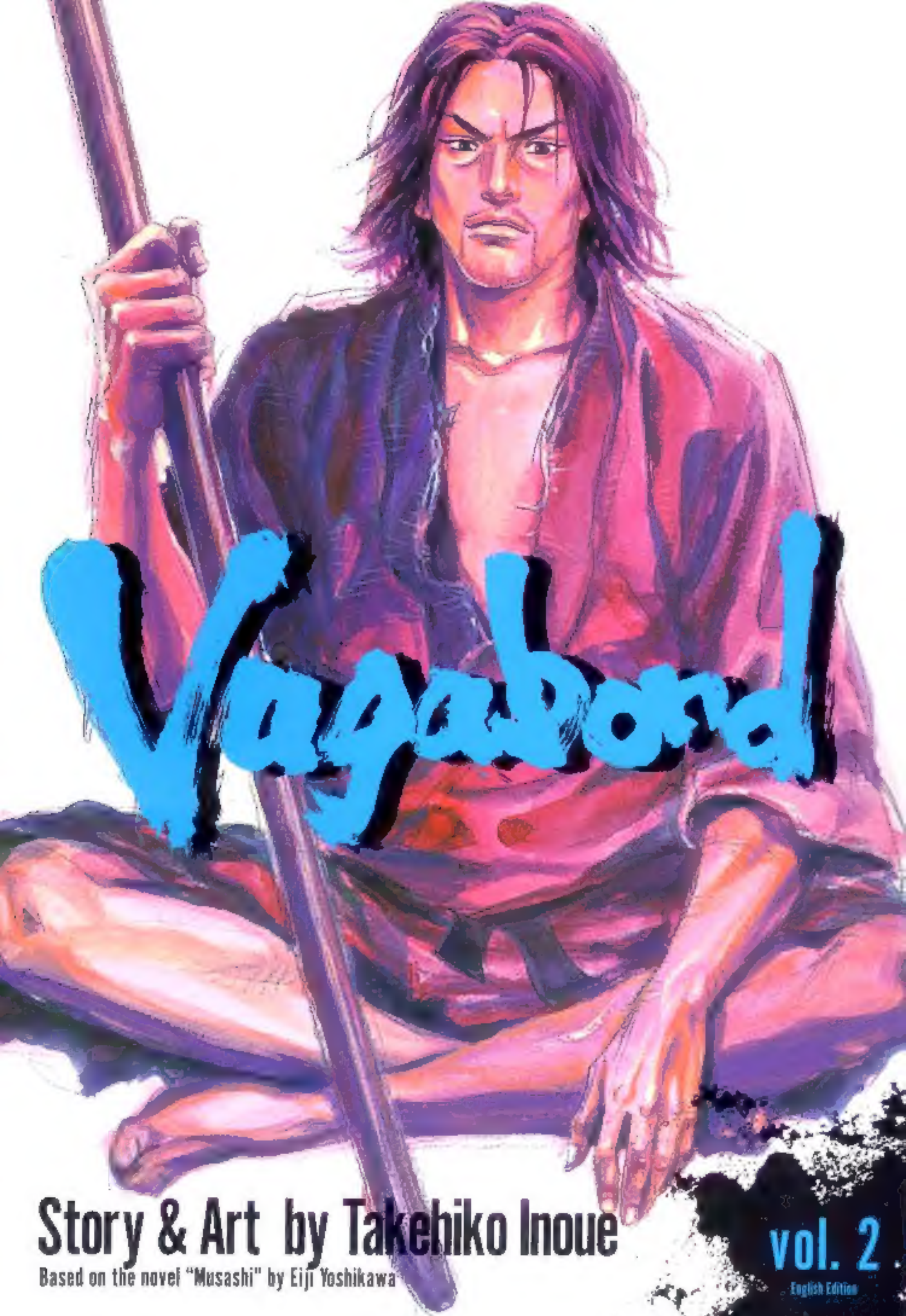

Story & Art by Takehiko Inoue

Based on the novel "Musashi" by Eiji Yoshikawa

vol. 2

English Edition

Vagabond Vol. 2
This graphic novel contains the last half of *Vagabond* monthly comic #3, issues #4 and #5 in their entirety, and the first half of issue #6.

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RRIP

RRIP

RRIP

AAAA!

O--

OTS!!

WHAT'S WRONG!?

WELL...

WHAT DID THE LETTER SAY!?

MNGH

MEN ARE ALL THE SAME!

WHUNK

LET IT ALL OUT.

HAVE A GOOD CRY.

TUGG

!!

WHAT!?

URR

SO... YOUR FIANCÉE MATAHACHI IS WITH ANOTHER WOMAN...

SNIF

HUF

OTS!, I WASN'T TRYING TO...

BWONG BWONG

DAMN YOU--!

WHO'S THIS OKŌ!?

MATAHACHI, YOU BASTARD!!

AAAAA GWGG

STOP IT, OTSŪ!!

Vagabond

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vol. 2

#11 Demon

BWONG BWONG

TOK

HUH!?

THWAK

ARGH!

THWAK

THWAK

ARGH!

AIEE!

TA--

TAKEZO...

THUD

HEY!!

CORNER HIM IN THERE!!

URR!

AIEE!

THUD

THOK

WHUD

URR.

UNGH.

ARGH!

KRAK

WHUD

WHUD

FWAM

URR!!

!!

I TOLD YOU I'D KILL YOU.

SHINMEN TAKEZŌ...

I'M IMPRESSED!

YOU--!!

HE'S FEAR-LESS!

SUCH RECKLESS RESIST-ANCE!

ARGH!

TUGG

HE'S MERCILESS!

WHAT!?

FOR THE SAKE OF HIS OWN SURVIVAL...

...HE TAKES LIVES WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT.

KRAK

EEYAH!

HE'S SO STRONG!!

SUCH POWER...!

AND THE MOMENT THIS KID REALIZES ...

...THAT HIS VERY LIFE IS COMING TO AN END...

WHOA

WITH SO MANY OPPONENTS ...

...HE'LL EVENTUALLY BECOME EXHAUSTED.

BUT THERE'S NO WAY...

...THAT HIS ENDURANCE CAN HOLD UP...

THWAK

...HE'LL FREEZE UP WITH FEAR!!

I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THE EXPRESSION ON HIS FACE!!

!!

TMP

URR...

THOR

AIEEE!

HUF

YOU'RE *BOTH* UNTRUST-WORTHY...

HUF

YOU *AND* YOUR SON.

HUF

WHAT'S THAT!?

CAPTAIN AOK!

THUD

GET HIM! DON'T LET HIM ESCAPE!!

CAPTAIN AOK!

AIEE!

FWISH

ATTACK!!

KILL HIM!!

!!

THWAK

NNGH!

AIEE!!

HUF

HUF

KIIIIAH!

A DEMON!!

HE'S A DEMON!!

THAT'S RIGHT!!

MATSU'S RIGHT!!

YOU'RE GONNA DIE RIGHT HERE BEFORE YOU CAN SHAME US ANY FURTHER!!

DON'T YOU HOLD ANY VALUE FOR HUMAN LIFE!?

YOU BASTARD!!

YOU'RE A *DISGRACE* TO MIYAMOTO VILLAGE!!

URR!!

OUTTA MY WAY!

DON'T RETREAT!!

GET OUTTA MY WAY, MATSU.

I'M *NOT* BACKIN' DOWN...

... TAKEZŌ!!

I'M *NOT* LETTIN' YOU BY!!

THAT'S RIGHT!!

DIE, YOU ANIMAL!!

WHAT ...?

LET ME GO, YOU FOOL!

MOVE IN!

TUGG

!?

HE'S DISTRACTED! ATTACK HIM *NOW!!*

KRNCH

NNGH!

MOICHI!!

SWAK

ARGH!

HUF

HUF

HUF

HUF

HUF

I'M GETTING THE CHILLS...!

DEMON !!

...LOOK AT HIS *EYES!!*

YOU DEMON!!

DEMON!!

DEMON...

I LIKE THE SOUND OF IT.

AIEE!

FWOOSH

ARGH!

STOP, YOU BASTARD !!

!?

FWFSSHH

!?

TOK

HEE HEE!

YOU FELL FOR IT!

IS IT A DEER...

...OR A BOAR?

HMM...
WHATEVER IT IS. IT'S REALLY BIG...

...BUT IT'S GOT A SMALL HEART.

HMPH.

Vagabond

YOU MIGHT BE BIG...
IT'S THE SIZE OF A CAT'S.
...BUT YOUR HEART IS SMALL.
HERE THEY COME...
AREN'T YOU GOING TO RUN AWAY?
WHY WOULD A BEAST NEED TO KNOW MY NAME?
!!
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU!?

ARE YOU FRIGHTENED ?

HUH?

I'LL KILL YOU EVEN IF YOU *ARE* A MONK.

#12|Takuan

IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE AFRAID OF PEOPLE.
YOU'D CUT ME DOWN IF I WERE TO EVEN *TOUCH* YOU.
YOU KEEP YOUR NERVES ON EDGE AND YOU'RE ALWAYS READY TO LASH OUT. YOU DISTANCE YOURSELF FROM EVERYONE.
YOU ARE THE WEAKEST PERSON IN THIS VILLAGE.

Vagabond

HUH?

WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT?

FWISH

HEY!

THERE HE IS!

TMP TMP TMP

WHERE'D HE GO?

HUH !?

!

DAMN!

WHICH WAY DID HE GO?

HUF

HUF

HUF

TAKUAN!

THAT WAY.

WHERE'S TAKEZŌ?

THOSE BASTARDS CAN'T CATCH ME.

I DON'T OWE YOU A THING.

TAKUAN, I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE...

...BUT I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP.

THAT WAY!

TMP

...

HEY! HERE HE IS!!

TAKEZŌ'S OVER HERE!!

!!

TMP TMP TMP

HA HA HA!

THE NEXT DAY, EFFORTS FOR THE MANHUNT WERE INTENSIFIED.

THE VILLAGERS CONTINUED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE HUNT, ORDERED TO ABANDON THEIR FIELDS...

...THEY WERE FORCED TO SCOUR THE MOUNTAINS ARMED ONLY WITH BAMBOO SPEARS.

SUPPORTING TROOPS WERE DISPATCHED FROM HIMEJI CASTLE.

HOWEVER, TAKEZŌ CONTINUED TO EVADE CAPTURE.

SHIPPŌJI

THIS IS HORRIBLE ...

NNGH... MY SHOULDER HURTS.

THAT DAMN BASTARD.

SIPP

IF WE DON'T CAPTURE TAKEZŌ SOON, I'LL HAVE TO COMMIT SEPPUKU.

WHERE'S OTSŪ!?

OTSŪ!!

I'M TRYING TO FIND HER...

WELL HURRY IT UP!! OUCH...

OUCH...

OTSŪ'S BEEN AVOIDING ME! THE SAKE DOESN'T TASTE AS GOOD WITHOUT HER!

CAPTAIN AOKI! YOU MUSTN'T RAISE YOUR VOICE LIKE THAT. YOU'LL ONLY RE-INJURE YOURSELF!

OTSŪ!!

OTSŪ!!

MATA-
HACHI...
YOU
JERK.

SNIFF

HMPH...

TAKUAN.

VERY WELL, THEN. I'LL ACCOMPANY YOU.

HMM... YOU'RE RIGHT.

I *HATE* THAT MUSTACHE SAMURAI.

ALL HE DOES IS DRINK.

A FOOL LIKE THAT WON'T BE ABLE TO CAPTURE TAKEZŌ.

OTSŪ...

THEY'RE LOOKING FOR YOU.

I DON'T CARE.

OTSŪ!

OTSŪ!

OH...

MATA-HACHI'S JUST HORRIBLE.

KNOD

SO YOU AND TAKEZŌ WERE CHILDOOD FRIENDS?

AND MATA-HACHI, TOO.

SOB.

OTSŪ!

TAKUAN.

...

SNIFFL

SNIFFL

COME COME

...CAPTURE TAKEZŌ?

HOW COULD A FOOL WHO DRINKS ALL DAY...

...

THE VILLAGERS GROW WEARY OF YOU *AND* YOUR INCOMPETENCE!

HOW MANY WEEKS, HOW MANY HUNDREDS OF MEN ...

HMPH!

...DO YOU NEED TO CAPTURE A SINGLE MAN?

WHAT WAS THAT?

URK

I'LL CUT YOU DOWN.

INCOM-PETEN~!

GASP!

HMPH.

TUGG

HOW *DARE* YOU!?

HMM...

IS IT EVEN POSSIBLE FOR THE INCOMPETENT CAPTAIN TO CUT ME DOWN?

GOT TO GET SOMETHING TO EAT...

HUF

HUF

HUF

HUF

AHUK

URGH

AHUK

HUF

HUF

HE'S EVIL!!

A DEMON.

HMPH...

HIS EYES GIVE ME THE CHILLS!!

YOU IDIOTS.

FIND HIM!?

NAH!

YOU'LL NEVER GET ME.

FWICH

FSSH

YOU ARE THE WEAKEST PERSON IN THE VILLAGE.

I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU BASTARDS THINK OF ME.

THE ONLY REASON I CAME BACK HERE WAS TO TELL OTSU THAT MATAHACHI IS STILL ALIVE.

...

!?

THOK

THOK

THOK

THOK

THOK

YOU'RE NOT PART OF THE MANHUNT!!

HA!

HA!

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU!?

HA!

1

I COME FROM THE VILLAGE OF FUWA...

LOOKS LIKE EVERYONE'S AFTER YOU.

I'LL PUT AN END TO *ALL* YOUR TROUBLES.

I'M TSUJIKAZE KŌHEI.

TSUJIKAZE...

TSUJIKAZE KOMEI...

#13 Life

SO YOU'RE THE ONE...

...WHO KILLED MY BROTHER...

THUNK

NNGH!

WHUD

WHUD

UGH...

FWAK

!!

...TAKEZO!!

URR.

FUKE

!
TRAGEL
!!
KRICH

SO YOU WANT TO AVENGE YOUR BROTHER.

HUF HUF HUF HUF

SLISH!!

THUD

IT'S NOT POISONED.

COME ON.

FWOOSH

SPLASH

GIVE IT UP...

...TAKEZO!

FWOOSH

...THE DEATH OF A PERSON LIKE YOU.

NO ONE'S GONNA MOURN...

YOU'RE GONNA END UP JUST LIKE THOSE YOU KILLED.

HUH

HUH

HUH

THWAK

AND I'M *NOT* HERE TO AVENGE MY BROTHER'S DEATH

...TO KILL TENMA

I WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THE ONE...

KRICH

YOU SNATCHED MY PRIZE AWAY SO NOW I'LL HAVE TO KILL *YOU.*

I WAS BORN INTO THIS WORLD...

...AND MAYBE I'LL LIVE TO SEE TWENTY YEARS OR SO...

HAH...

I SEE...

HA HA..

SIBLING RIVALRY.

...THEN I'LL DIE.

THAT'S ALL THERE IS. FOR BOTH YOU AND ME.

!!

...

SWITCH

!!

HUH!?

!!

AND HE'S INJURED!!

HEY! THERE'S TAKEZŌ!!

SHOOP

SHOOP

SHOOP

COME ON! OVER THERE!!

HAHA...

TMP

THERE HE IS!!

IT'S TAKEZO!!

SURROUND HIM!!

YOU'RE FINISHED NOW, TAKEZŌ!!

KRICH

HAHHH!!

KILL HIM!!

HUF

HUF

IF HE RESISTS, JUST CUT HIM DOWN!!

...AND HAVE LIVED FOR 17 YEARS...

I WAS BORN INTO THIS WORLD...

FOR WHAT PURPOSE?

Y-
YOU...
BASTARD
!!

YOU'RE
STILL
FIGHTING
BACK!?

BASTARD
!!

CUT
HIM
DOWN!!

THUD

ARR!

URGH!

WHUD
!!

TNP TNP

!!

AYAHHH!

I GOT HIM!!

!! THOK THOK

FWISH

ARGH!!

LRR...

HE
HE
HE
i
HUH

URR
...!!
URR
...

Vagabond

おにぐも
(SPIDER DEMON)

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD IN STORE FOR ME?

HUF

HUF

HUF

I DON'T CARE.

HUNTED DOWN.

I AM HATED...

HUF

HUF

HUF

SHUF

SHUF

IN THE END, I'LL BE CUT DOWN, TOO.

I KILL AND KILL OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

KAW

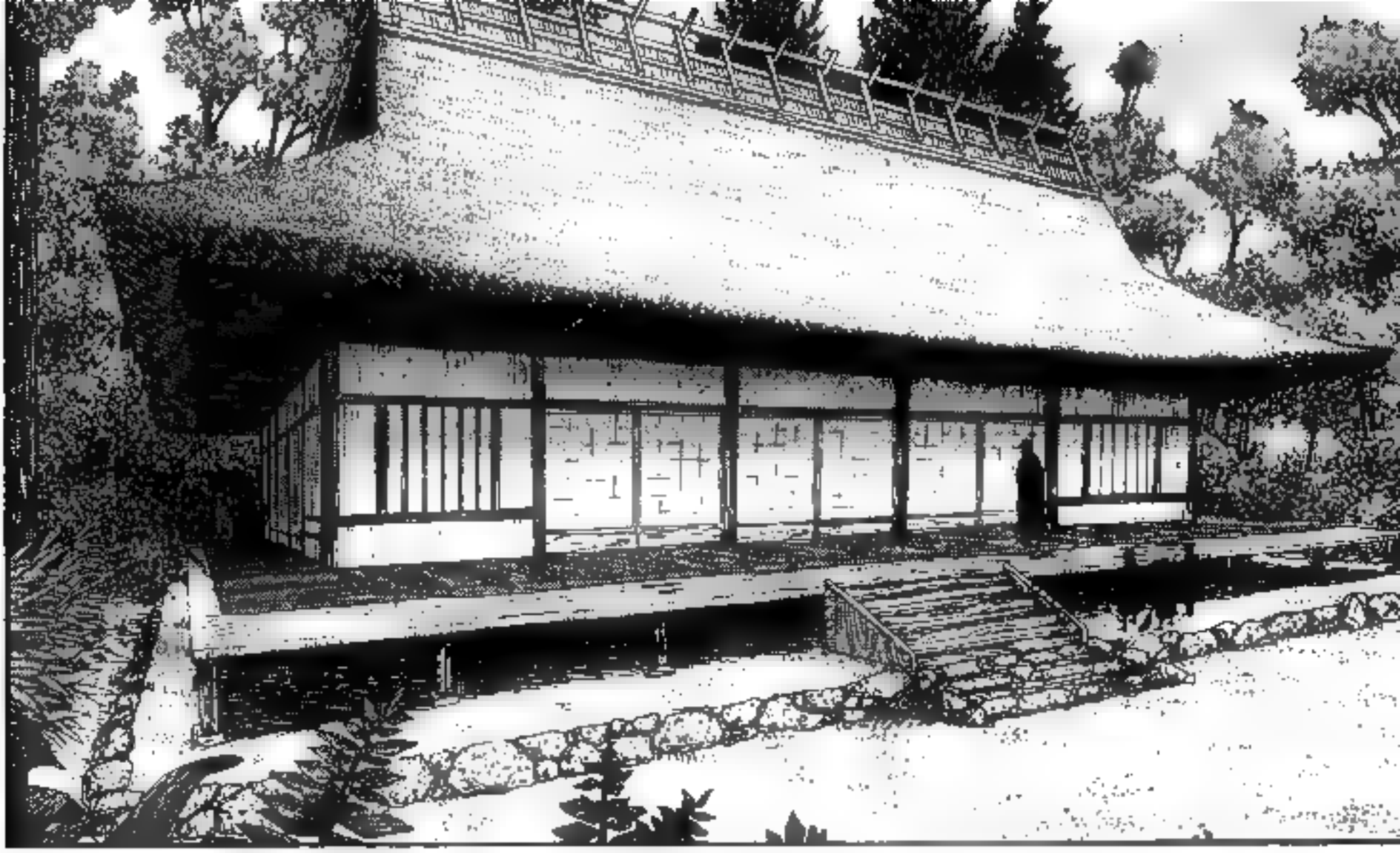
KAW

KAW

KAW

KAW

THAT'S ALL THERE IS.



GASP!

NOT GOOD. NOT GOOD.

ALL RIGHT THEN. I'LL REPEAT MYSELF ONE MORE TIME.
HA HA HA
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU?

YOU JUST *TRY* AND SAY THAT AGAIN!!

...SO THAT EVEN *YOU'LL* BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND.

I'LL SPEAK S-L-O-W-L-Y ...

IN...

...COM...

...PE...

GASP!

SHHH!!

MMBL MMBL

SHHH!!

URK!

...DON'T TAKE IT PERSONALLY.

...HE'S ALWAYS MOUTHING OFF, SAYING CRAZY THINGS...

UH, WELL...

MMBL MMBL

INCOM-PETENT

SHHH!!

INCOMPETENCE IS INCOMPETENCE.

IF A PERSON DOESN'T REALIZE HE'S INCOMPETENT, THAT'S ALL THE MORE REASON HE NEEDS TO BE TOLD.

YOU SHOULDN'T HIDE THE TRUTH FROM HIM...

HOW *DARE* YOU... *INSULT* ME!?

GASP!

FCHH

YOU'RE FINISHED NOW, MONK!!

HUH?

FWUMP

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT TAKEZŌ!!

I'M *COMPLETELY* APPALLED!!

WHY DID HE LET THIS FOOL LIVE?

THAT SILLY TAKEZO.

!!

I MEAN...

...THE VILLAGERS HAVE HAD TO STOP WORKING THE FIELDS BECAUSE OF HIS INCOMPETENCE.

...THEY'RE FORCED TO JOIN THE MANHUNT AND WORK FOR FREE.

IT'S JUST HORRIBLE.

THE VILLAGERS HAVE TO MAKE A LIVING.

ON TOP OF THAT, TAKEZO'S A WILD BEAST.

THEY'RE RISKING THEIR LIVES TO HUNT HIM DOWN.

HMPH...

IT'S FOR THE SECURITY OF--

OF THE VILLAGE? *THAT'S* WHY THEY SHOULD RISK THEIR LIVES? *HMM*...PERHAPS YOU ARE RIGHT...

OTSŪ! *YOU* SHOULD GO TO THE MOUNTAINS.

GO AND CAPTURE TAKEZŌ.

WHAT!?

WHAT ARE YOU--?

WHAT?

YUCK!

SO YOU STILL WANT OTSŪ...

URK

...TO SERVE YOU YOUR SAKE?

I KNOW I KNOW...

IT'S DANGEROUS FOR A WOMAN TO BE ALONE IN THE WOODS.

I'LL ACCOMPANY HER.

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?

THAT'S NOT THE POINT!

HEE HEE HEE

WHERE'S OTSŪ!?

OTSŪ!

...!! OTSŪ

HMPH.

...SHE FINDS YOU REPULSIVE.

HA HA HA NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU TRY IT'S NO USE. ONE LOOK ON HER FACE AND IT'S OBVIOUS...

URRR...

BY THE WAY...
...WHEN DO YOU PLAN ON SWINGING THAT SWORD OF YOURS?

ZHOOP

TAKUAN, SIR!!

TAKUAN!!

TMP

TMP

HUF

HUF

HUF

HUF

T-TA--

TAKUAN...?

...

YOUR HIPS! YOUR HIPS!

HA HA HA HA!!

HA HA HA!

IF YOU DON'T PUT STRENGTH IN YOUR HIPS, THE ONLY THING YOU'LL CUT ■ SKIN!!

...!!

DID THEY JUST CALL HIM TAKUAN ...!?

TAKUAN...

THESE ARE THE BASIC VIRTUES REQUIRED OF YOUR POSITION.

LOYALTY TO THE LORD.

CHARITY TO THE PEOPLE.

THE CLOSE FRIEND OF IKEDA TERUMASA, THE LORD OF HIMEJI CASTLE...!?

TAKUAN SŌHŌ!!

YOU COULD CARE LESS ABOUT DISRUPTING THE VILLAGERS' LIVES...

PLEASE, TAKUAN, ENOUGH!!

TAKUAN, SIR!!

TAKUAN !!

T-TA—

YOU'RE JUST A CIVIL SERVANT TAX THIEF.

BEAUTIFUL WOMAN ...?

FIP

ALL YOU CARE ABOUT IS FORCING A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN TO SERVE YOU SAKE.

...NOR DO YOU CARE ABOUT YOUR MEN'S SUFFERING.

AFTER ALL THE FUSS YOU'VE CAUSED, YOU STILL HAVEN'T MANAGED TO CAPTURE TAKEZŌ.

I'D LIKE TO SAY MORE BUT IT'S OVER FOR YOU.

...

...

UHP...

YOU'LL HAVE TO COMMIT SEPPUKU.

OTSŪ...

ARE YOU AFRAID OF TAKEZŌ?

...

TAKEZŌ?

NOT AT ALL.

SMIRK

OTSU! JUST MIGHT SAVE YOUR NECK.

ACK!...

SHE'S GOING TO BE THE ONE WHO CAPTURES TAKEZŌ!!

Vagabond

(HOW DARE YOU!?)
(LOINCLOTH)

#15 No Fear

WE'RE SO CLOSE TO CAPTURING THAT BASTARD TAKEZŌ!!

WHY HAS THE MANHUNT BEEN CALLED OFF!?

IN THREE DAYS!?

REALLY?

IF THEY FAIL, TAKUAN SAYS HE'LL HANG HIMSELF FROM THE OLD CEDAR TREE IN FRONT OF THE TEMPLE.

APPARENTLY, TAKUAN AND OTSŪ PROMISED CAPTAIN AOKI...

...THAT THEY WOULD CAPTURE TAKEZŌ IN THREE DAYS.

TAKUAN THE MONK AND...

...OTSŪ?

THAT WAS STUPID.

THEY CAN'T CATCH TAKEZŌ IN THREE DAYS.

WE SHOULD KNOW, WE WERE OUT THERE.

TAKUAN...

WHY WOULD MY FUTURE DAUGHTER-IN-LAW--?

WHY'D YOU MAKE THAT PROMISE?

THIP

THIP

TAKEZO'S NOT FOOLISH ENOUGH TO BE CAPTURED BY *ME*.

THIP

HUH?

TAKEZO!

WHERE ARE YOU!?

SWISH

SWISH

I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE HE COULD BE.

KYAAA!!

...

TAKEZO DID THIS?

WHO ELSE?

...

PLEASE FORGIVE TAKEZŌ.

TAKEZŌ!

OTSŪ..

...THE STEW IS DONE. LET'S EAT.

YOU *TRACKED* ME!

YOU'RE MAKING ME DO *ALL* THE WORK!!

WE'RE DONE FOR THE DAY. IT'S GOTTEN TOO DARK.

HUH?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

WILD GREENS FOR THE STEW!

EXCELLENT!

LOOK!

...

...?

HUF

HUF

HUF

HUF

PAKA

PAKA

OTSU...

WHAT'S BEEN BOTHERING YOU?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TALK ABOUT IT?

UH...

SOB.

...BEFORE YOU GOT MARRIED.

WELL, IT IS FORTUNATE THAT THIS HAPPENED ...

YEAH...

YOU LOVED MATAHACHI ?

MATA-HACHI'S A LIAR!!

SOB

I SEE.

WHAT DID YOU LIKE ABOUT HIM?

...

HACHI HACHI

...

WELL, YOU SEE...

...TAKEZO NEVER GOT ALONG WITH ANYONE.

KRIK! KRAK!

...EVEN WHEN WE WERE LITTLE KIDS...

?

"ARIMA KIHEI..."

WHEN HE WAS 13...

"I AM TRAVELLING FAR AND WIDE SEEKING OUT WORTHY OPPONENTS."

"I WISH TO CHALLENGE THE STRONGEST MAN IN THIS VILLAGE."

LIKE A WILD BEAST...

...HE HARDLY EVER CAME DOWN FROM THE MOUNTAINS.

THAT'S FOR SURE.

NOT ME.

WHO'S THE STRONGEST ONE HERE?

!!

HM?

HEY KID...

...WHAT DO *YOU* WANT?

TA-

TAKEZO.

I'M THE STRONGEST.

...!?

TWUNK

...

AAAA!!

AHH...

LILP!

I WON.

SPLSHH

EVER SINCE THAT INCIDENT...

PTU!

...PEOPLE STAYED AWAY FROM TAKEZO EVEN MORE THAN BEFORE.

NO, MATAHACHI--

OF COURSE, THEY WERE TERRIFIED OF HIM.

BUT...

...WHO CONTINUED TO BE TAKEZO'S FRIEND...

MATAHACHI WAS THE ONLY ONE...

...

SNIF...

...

SOB.

SOB!

...

FWOM

THAT'S WHAT I LIKED ABOUT MATAHACHI.

...

SOB!

I'M SO UPSET.

...WEREN'T AFRAID OF TAKEZO?

SO YOU...

OF COURSE NOT.

THIS IS VERY PECULIAR.

OTSŪ...

HUH?

...BECAUSE HE CONTINUED TO BE TAKEZŌ'S FRIEND?

YOU LIKED MATAHACHI ...

UH- HUH.

SNIFF

SNIFFL

HMM...

PROOF

I GUESS IT'S ALL THESE BEANS IN THE STEW.

AHEM.

HA HA HA!

AHEM

AHEM

STOP THAT!

THERE'S NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF. WE'RE WAY OUT HERE IN THE MOUNTAINS.

PROOT

NO WAY!!

OTSU! YOU SHOULD HAVE SOME MORE STEW, TOO!

COME ON!

WE'RE ONLY HUMAN.

HA HA HA HA

!!

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, TAKEZŌ?

HUH?

Vagabond

(PROOT!)
ポーン

HUH?

...ISN'T THAT RIGHT, TAKEZO?

!!

WHY DON'T YOU COME JOIN US?

#16 | Captured

HUF
HUF
HUF
TAKEZO, YOU LOOK COMPLETELY WORN OUT...
...OTS--
OTSU, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
...
...
YOU CAN'T EVEN SPEAK...
...
YOU CAN BARELY STAND.

WE'RE HERE TO CAPTURE YOU!

HUF

HUF

HUF

HUF

...

YOU DEVIL!!

BEAST!!

DEMON!!

YOU'RE EVIL!!

BASTARD!!

KILL HIM!!

KILL HIM!!

CUT HIM DOWN!!

KILL HIM!!

...

OTSU.

O-

...

ARE *YOU* JUST LIKE THE OTHERS...?

TAKEZO.

WHO'S OKŌ?

HUH?

WHAT'S SHE LIKE?

SNIFF

TAKEZO.

SNIF

SNIFF

MATA-HACHI...

SNIF

SNIF

...WROTE ME THIS HORRIBLE LETTER...

...AGAIN.

IVE BEEN ABANDONED...

...OTSU WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD'VE CAPTURED TAKEZO ALIVE.

YES...

NOW WHAT KIND OF SERMON SHALL I GIVE TAKEZO...?

NO...

A SERMON'S THE *LAST* THING TAKEZO WOULD LISTEN TO.

PERHAPS ...

...I SHOULD *BEAT* SOME SENSE INTO THIS WILD BEAST.

I JUST MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO IT.

HE'S STARVED AND EXHAUSTED FROM HIDING OUT...

...IT LOOKS AS IF I DON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING AT ALL.

HOW-EVER...

OTSU IS THE STRONGEST ONE OF US ALL.

OTSU ISN'T SCARED OF YOU AT ALL...

...TAKEZO.

HE PASSED OUT...

OTSŪ, YOU'VE MANAGED TO CAPTURE TAKEZŌ.

Vagabond

PAIN...

THWAK

THWAK

THE DEMON'S BEEN CAUGHT!!

HE'S BEEN CAPTURED!!

IT'S TAKEZO!!

PAIN

THWAK

THWAK

THWAK

DEMON !!

FIP

KAW

KAW

!!

FIP
FIP

#17 Invincible Under the Sun

KILL ME!

HMM...

SO YOU'RE STILL ALIVE...

GET IT OVER WITH AND KILL ME!!!

KAW

ZHOOP

WHY PUT ME THROUGH THIS HUMILIATION...?

TP

TP

KAWW

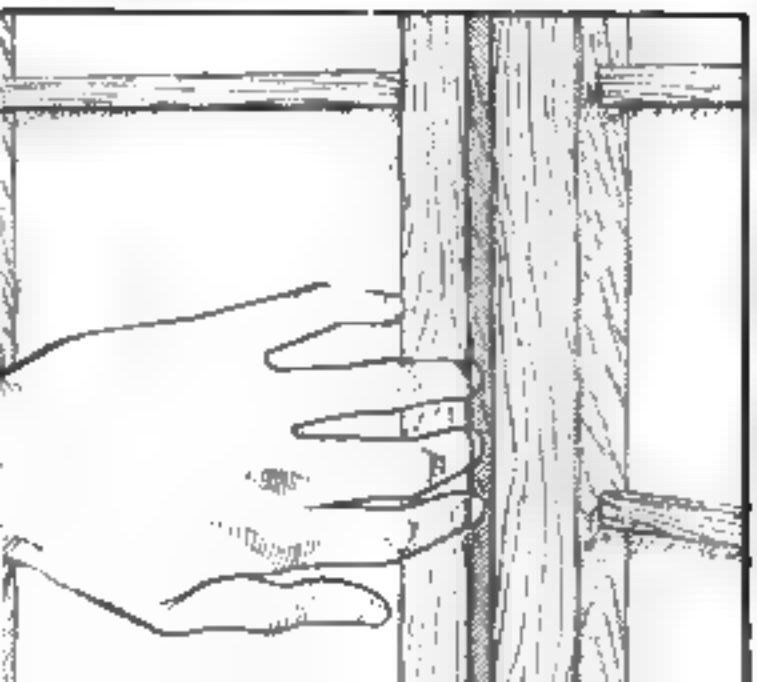
KILL OR BE KILLED...

CUT PEOPLE DOWN AND DIE IN MORTAL COMBAT...

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN READY TO PAY THE CONSEQUENCES.

THAT'S WHO I AM.

KILL ME!!



FSSHHHHHHH

GASP

I TOLD YOU NOT TO GO OUT.

IF YOU SEE TAKEZŌ UP IN THAT TREE...

...WON'T YOU BE TEMPTED TO CUT HIM LOOSE?

BUT!

IT'S POURING OUTSIDE!!

OTSŪ...

THAT'S WHY YOU CAN'T GO OUT.

UH-HUH.

I FEEL LIKE I *TRICKED* HIM.

OH, TAKEZŌ...

TAKEZŌ DOESN'T FEEL THAT WAY.

FSSSHH

GLEAM

WHAT A PLEASANT SIGHT.

GLEAM

I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU DIE UP THERE!!

I'M GOING TO CHECK UP ON YOU EVERY DAY...

THE HONTDEN FAMILY HAS LOST ITS PRECIOUS HEIR BECAUSE OF *YOU.*

YOU MADE UP THAT STORY ABOUT HIM LIVING SOMEWHERE WITH SOME WOMAN.

I'LL FIND OUT FOR MYSELF WHETHER HE'S ALIVE OR NOT.

...

FREEZ-ING COLD.

HEE HEE

AH, IT MAY BE SPRING, BUT IT'S SO COLD.

AND *RELISH* IN YOUR SUFFER-ING!

FSSSHHHH

AREN'T YOU DEAD YET?

HUH?!

PTU!!

OH!!

ACK!!

DAMN MONK...

...YOU GET OUT HERE...

I THOUGHT YOU WOULD'VE BEEN DEAD BY NOW.

TOK

YOU STUBBORN BASTARD!!

...AND FINISH ME OFF.

...

HOW DID I END UP LIKE THIS...?

IT'S NOT TRUE.

I NEVER LOST TO ANYONE.

YOU ARE THE WEAKEST PERSON IN THIS VILLAGE.

I JUST...

I JUST WANTED TO BECOME STRONGER.

SHE'S NO LONGER YOUR MOTHER.

I JUST WANTED TO... SEE HER...

...AND SHOW HER...

...HOW MUCH I'D GROWN.

TAKEZŌ...!

YOU *MUST* GO HOME.

...TO YOUR FATHER.

I WANT TO BE STRONG SO THAT...

...I WON'T HAVE TO DEPEND ON ANYBODY.

I *HAVE* TO BECOME STRONGER...

...I'LL BECOME STRONGER...

YES...

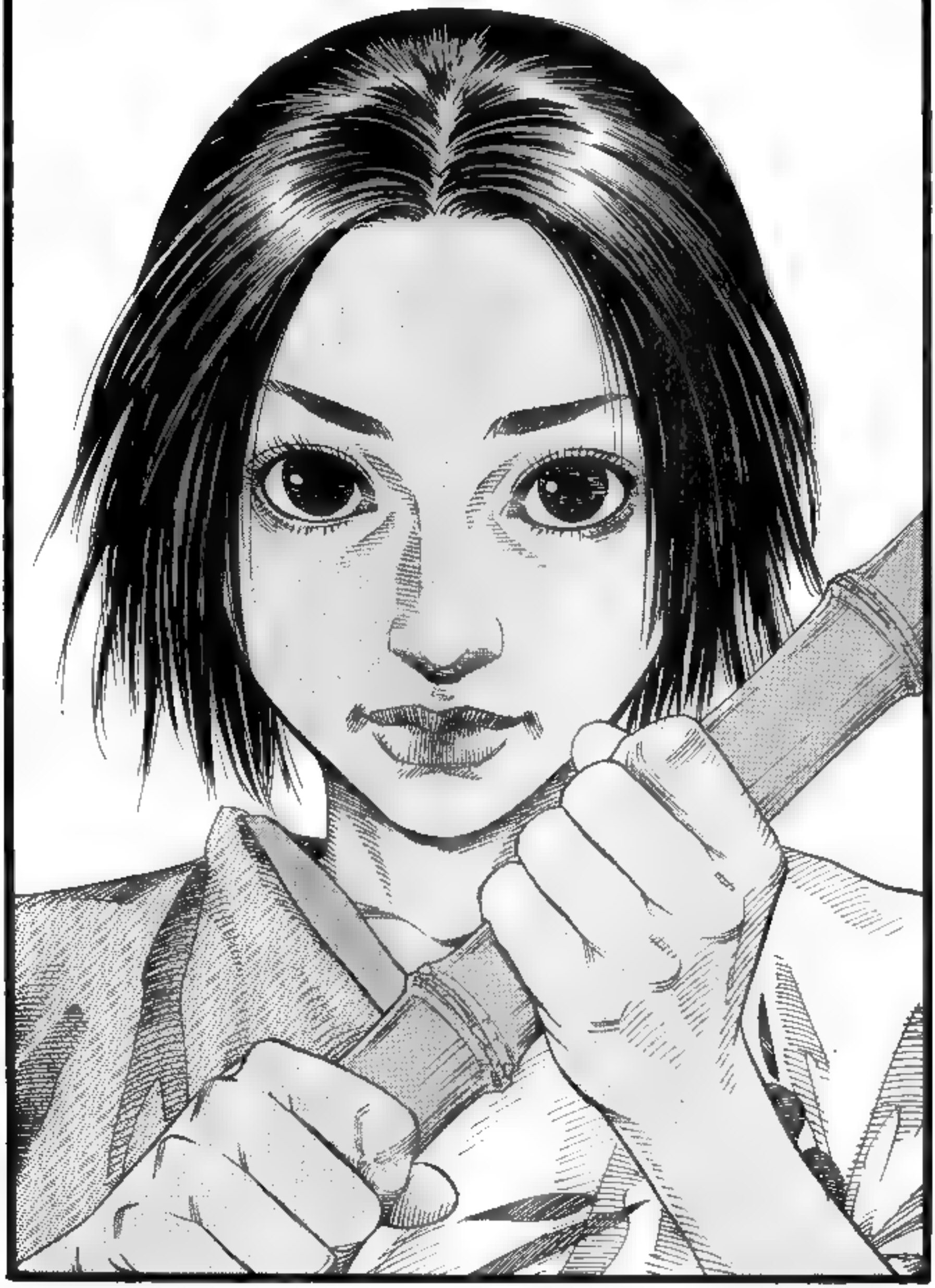
I'M GOING TO BECOME...

INVINCIBLE UNDER THE SUN.

THAT'S ALL I WANTED.

...

#18 Tree of Shame



TAKEZŌ.

OTSŪ...

LOOK WHAT I MANAGED TO SNEAK OUT...

HERE...

THERE YOU GO...

...TAKEZO.

HOLD ON...

OOPS.

EASY NOW...

OKAY ...

WUP

...

DON'T BOTHER WITH ME.

D-

DON'T...

TAKUJIAN'S FORBIDDEN ME...

...TO CUT YOU LOOSE.

IF YOU DON'T EAT

YOU'LL DIE

FWUP

WHOK

AHH!?

!

DUMP

THOOP

WHAT'S GOING ON OUT HERE...?

DON'T BOTHER WITH ME.

OH, NO!!

GASP!

!!

YAWN...

TP TP TP

TP

TP

TAKEZO!

I'LL BE BACK TOMOR-ROW!

DAMN MONK...

HURRY UP...

...AND KILL ME!!

KRICH

KRICH

KRICH

...

KILL ME...

HUF

HUF

HUF

HUF

HUF

ZHOOP

YOU DEAD YET?

HAH! YOU'RE A STUBBORN ONE, EH?

HEE HEE HEE

UR...

...

OTSU!

OTSU!

WHERE'S MY DAUGHTER-IN-LAW!?

OTSU! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!?

COME STAY WITH ME AS MY DAUGHTER-IN-LAW!!

I'M TELLING YOU, IT'S TIME YOU LEAVE THE TEMPLE AND COME LIVE WITH THE HONTIDEN FAMILY.

DON'T YOU SEE I'M DOING YOU A FAVOR!?

HOW DARE YOU REFUSE!?

AND NOW YOU ARE BEING OFFERED THE OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE HONTIDEN FAMILY!!

I LOOKED AFTER YOU OUT OF THE GOODNESS OF MY HEART BECAUSE YOU WERE AN ABANDONED CHILD.

OTSU.

MATA-HACHI'S NOT AROUND.

DAUGHTER-IN-LAW!? WHO'S SHE SUPPOSED TO GET MARRIED TO?

YOU SHUT UP!! MATAHACHI WILL RETURN!!

...

ALLOW ME TO REPEAT MYSELF.

YOU *MUST* JOIN THE HON'IDEN FAMILY.

!!

I REFUSE YOUR OFFER.

YOU'VE MADE ME FEEL SO HAPPY.

I WILL NEVER EVER FORGET YOUR GENEROSITY...

...

WHAT ...?

BUT NOW I CAN'T.

I REALLY *DID* WANT TO BECOME PART OF THE HONIDEN FAMILY.

HE *BETRAYED* ME.

I HATE MATAHACHI.

I CAN'T BECOME PART OF HIS FAMILY.

AND SO...

FWISH

THWAK THWAK

!!

ENOUGH.

...

TELL ME, *WHO'S* THE TRAITOR!? YOU STRAY CAT!!

GOOD FOR YOU, OTSU...

YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS, OTSU...!!

HUF

HUF

HUF

HUF

FHOOP

...

...

HMM?

UH...

AH...

...

KILL ME!!

KILL ME, YOU BASTARD MONK!!

KILL ME!!

AHUK!

HAK!

KOFF

KOFF

HAK

AMAZING! YOU STILL HAVE STRENGTH LEFT?

YOU'LL DIE...

...IF YOU DON'T CONSERVE YOUR ENERGY.

YOU MUST BE GETTING TIRED OF THE VIEW FROM UP THERE...

WHY WON'T YOU LET ME DIE A WARRIOR'S DEATH?

HUF

HUF

HAK

I'M NOT AFRAID OF DYING.

SO WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT YOURSELF?

YOU DAMN MONK.

ZHOOP

WHAT IS THERE BESIDES DARKNESS?

...NOTHING.

...

SHHH

FSH

WE'LL GET IT RIGHT THIS TIME...

OPEN YOUR MOUTH WIDE...

OKAY ?

...SO YOU CAN GET THE RICE.

I HAVE TO GET THE RICE *UP* THERE...

...BUT *YOU* NEED TO MAKE AN EFFORT TO RECEIVE IT, TOO.

GOOD!

THAT'S IT.

WE GOT IT NOW.

COME ON! YOU *HAVE* TO EAT!

...

FWICH

!!

TOMORROW.

TO-

GASP!

...

WE'LL GET IT RIGHT TOMORROW NIGHT...

TOMORROW...

Vagabond

TOMORROW?

KAW

KAW

KAW

LISTEN TO THAT RACKET.

HUF

HUF

KOFF

RIGHT, TAKEZŌ?

IT'S AS IF THEY'RE CRYING OUT, "DIE, DIE..."

#19 Thespeon's child

KAW

KAW

HMPH!

SO YOU WANT TO DIE HONORABLY?

A WARRIOR'S DEATH?

YOU'RE BEING SELFISH.

WHETHER THAT LIFE WAS BLESSED OR NOT...

EVERYONE IS BORN INTO THIS WORLD... THEY GROW UP...

EACH AND EVERY PERSON YOU KILLED HAD HIS OWN LIFE.

...SOME ARE ALONE IN THIS WORLD.

...SOME PEOPLE HAVE FAMILIES...

SOME HAVE PETS.

SOME ARE ENGAGED.

SOME HAVE YOUNG CHILDREN.

SOME PEOPLE HAVE HIGH HOPES AND GREAT DREAMS.

KAW

OTHERS HAVE NO AMBITION AT ALL.

IN-VINCIBLE UNDER THE SUN...

YOU ENDED EVERYTHING FOR THEM, TAKEZŌ.

YOU *KILLED* THEM.

WHAT GIVES YOU THE PRIVILEGE TO DIE WHEN AND HOW YOU CHOOSE?

AN HONORABLE DEATH...?

FWICH

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE...

FWICH

...TAKEDA?

AHH!!

NNGH!!!

AND *NOW* YOU WANT TO DIE HONORABLY?

YOU'RE JUST BEING SELFISH!

YOU TAKE AWAY THE LIVES OF OTHERS FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR OWN SURVIVAL...

ARGH!

HUF

HUF

HUF

HUF

FSSHHHH

SWEET RAIN..

THE HEAVENS WON'T ALLOW YOU A PARCHED DEATH UNDER THE SUN.

PLIP

PLISH

PLISH

PLISH

FSSHHH

THEY'RE NOT SO FORGIVING.

INVINCIBLE

GULP

TO HAVE NO EQUAL AMONG MEN.

TO BE THE STRONGEST...

...THROUGHOUT THE LANDS.

I SEE...

...

YOU TOO, HUH?

...

YOU WON'T TAKE IT?

WELL, PICK UP THAT SWORD THEN.

SO YOU THINK YOU CAN CUT ME DOWN?

ONLY ONE MAN CAN BE INVINCIBLE UNDER THE SUN.

I DIDN'T SAY THAT.

DOESN'T MATTER.

DRAW.

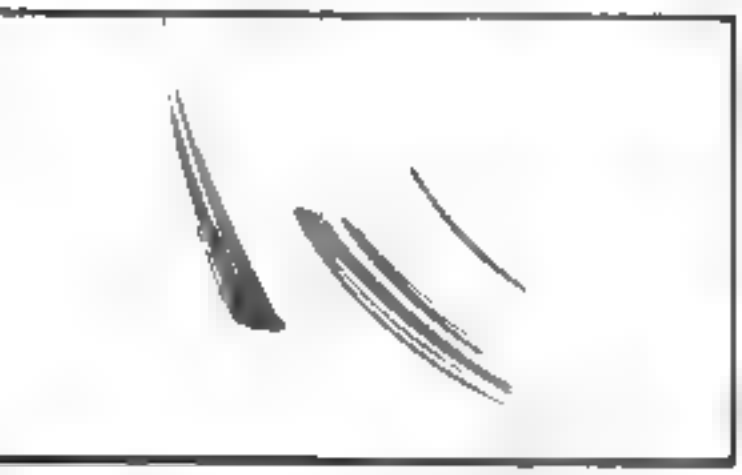
YOU CARRY THE BLOOD OF SHINMEN MUNISAI.

YOU WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BECOME STRONG.

...

AND EVENTUALLY BECOME A THREAT TO ME.

SHALL
I
JUST
KILL
YOU
NOW...?



FWISH

HMPH...

YOU DIDN'T EVEN FLINCH.

NO WONDER YOU'RE CALLED "DEMON CHILD."

FIP

KAW

KAW

HUF

HUF

HUF

KOFF

HUF

WOOSH

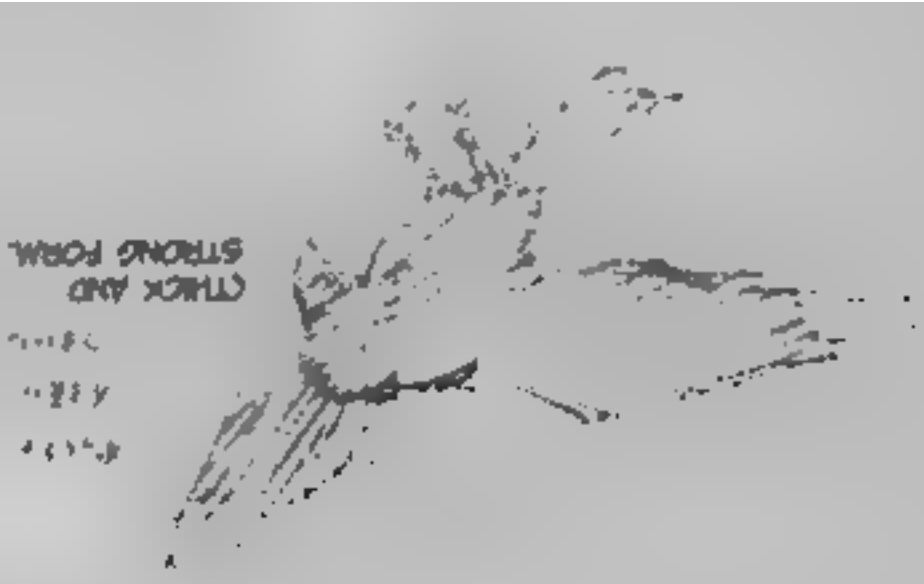
HOW CAN YOU STILL BE ALIVE...
...WHERE?

...HANGING FROM THIS TREE OF SHAME.

T-TSUJIKAZE...

ICHIEL.

Vagabond


THICK AND
STRONG FORM.

DRENCHED BY RAIN.

SCORCHED BY THE SUN.

PISS DRIED UP ON YOUR LEGS...

BUT YOU JUST GROW DIRTIER AND MORE MISERABLE BY THE DAY.

AND YOU'RE STILL ALIVE...

STUBBORNLY YOU HANG ON—AS IF YOU HAVE SOME HIGHER PURPOSE...

IF HEAVEN AND HELL...

...REALLY DO EXIST...

#20 | Death

IF WE'RE BOTH ULTIMATELY HEADED FOR THE SAME DARK PLACE...

THUMP

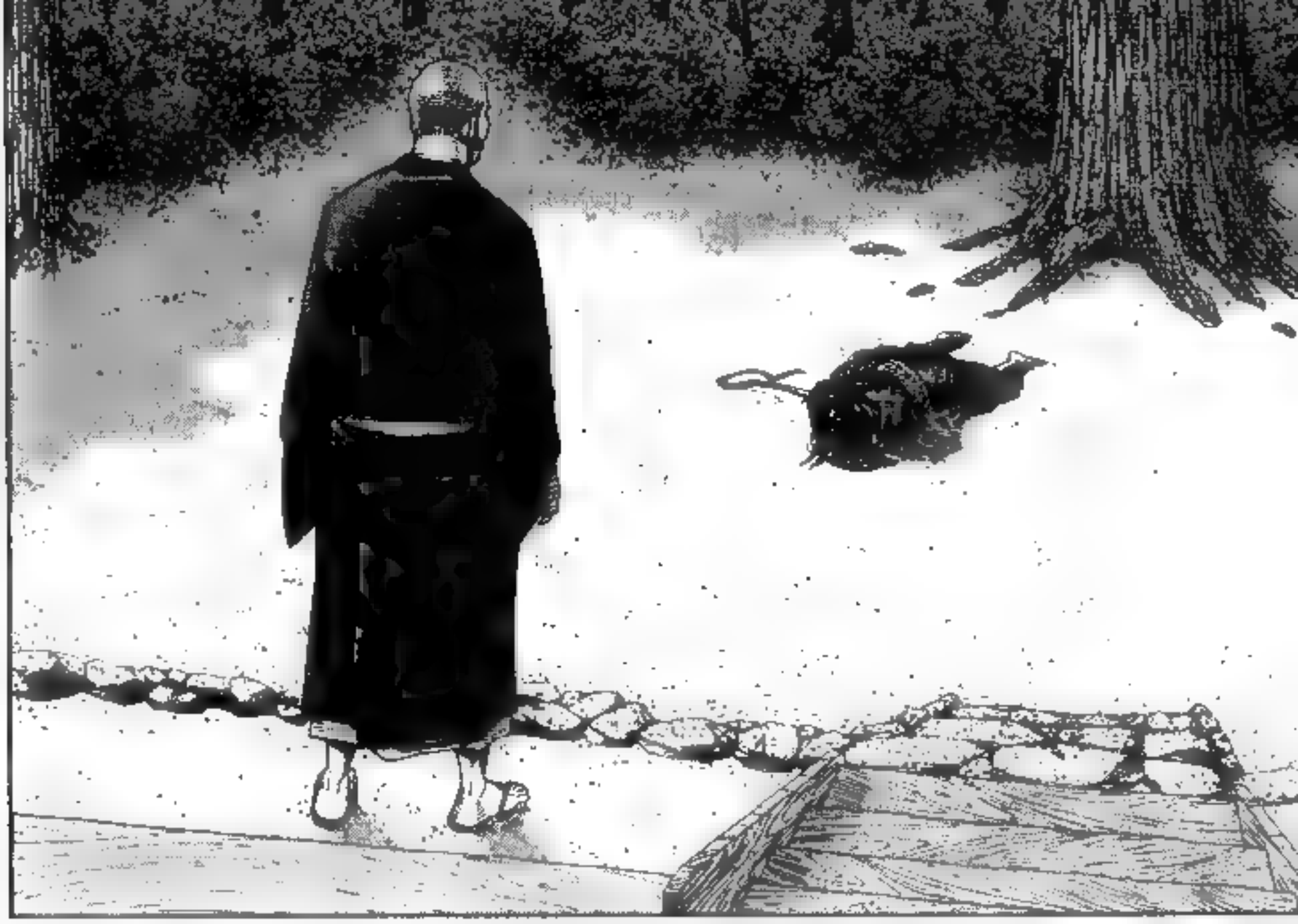
...THEN I'LL SEND YOU OFF WITH A GLORIOUS CRIMSON DEATH...

...THEN A MURDERER LIKE ME...

...IS CURSED.

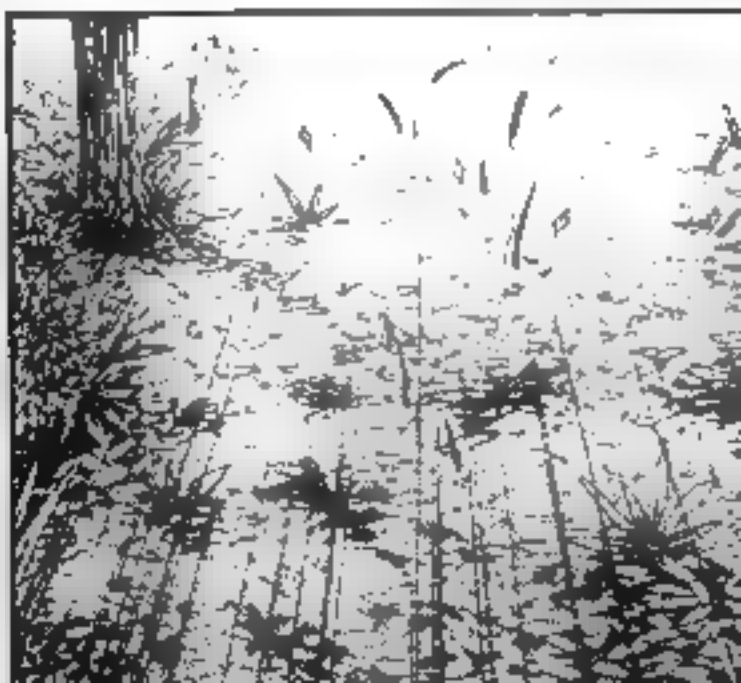
I'M DESTINED TO GO TO HELL...

SLISH



FSSH
FSH

FWOOP

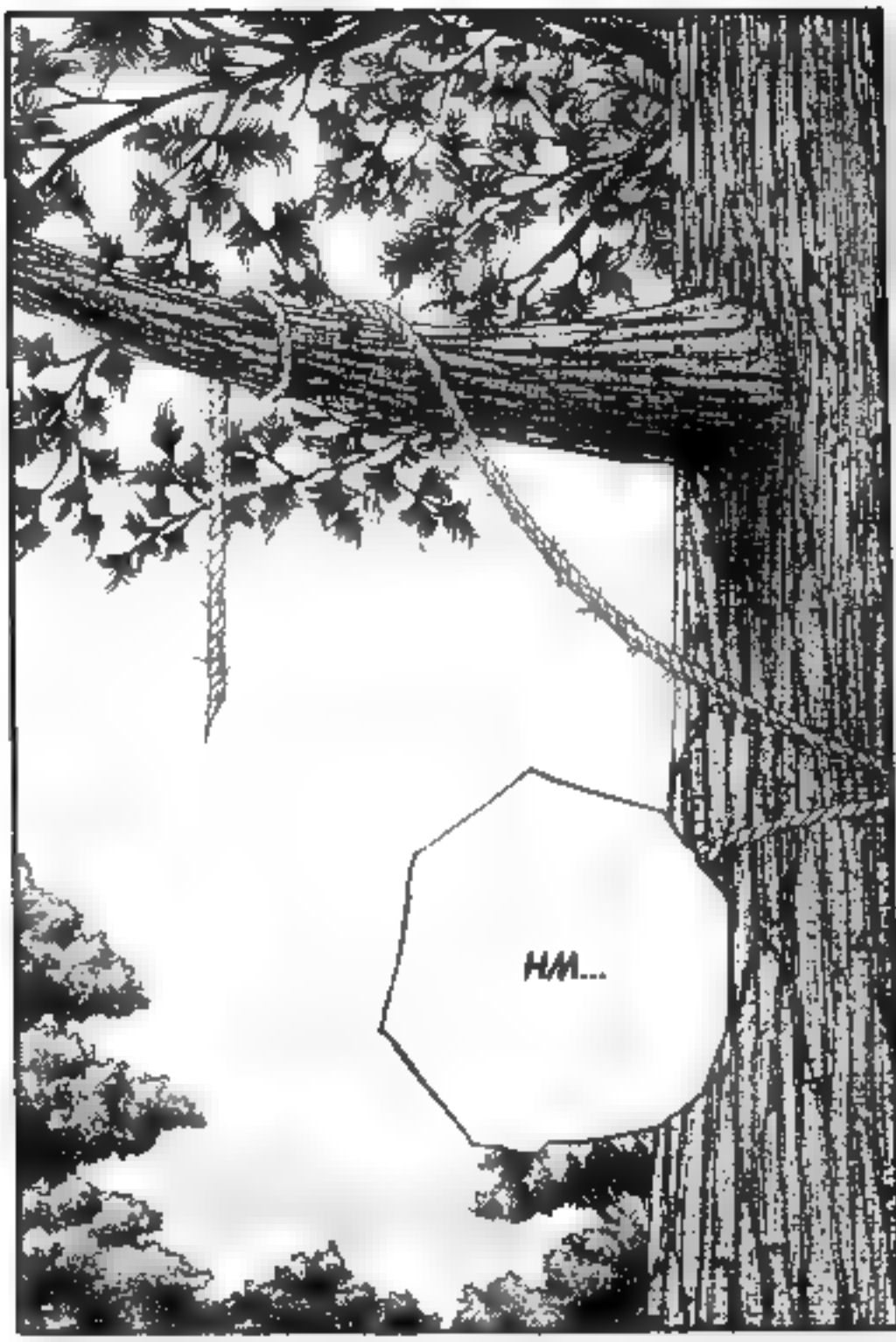


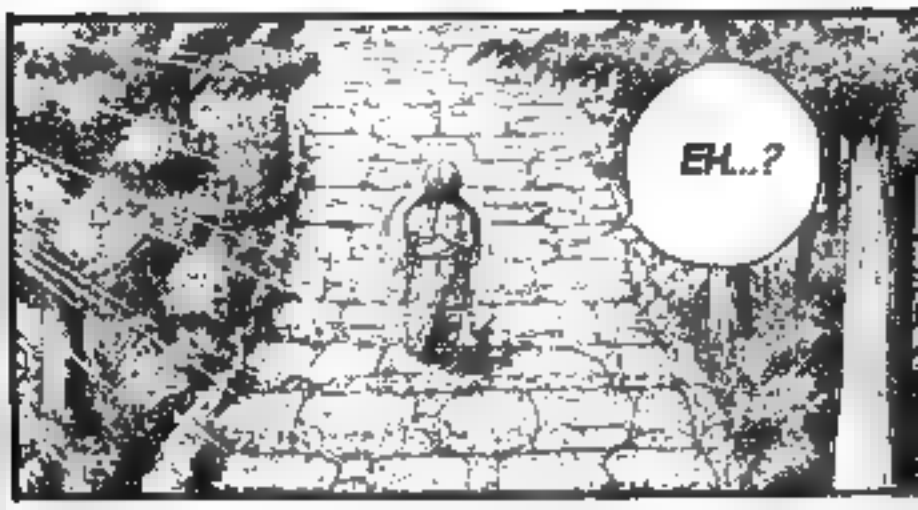
HE CUT ME DOWN WITH HIS MIND!!

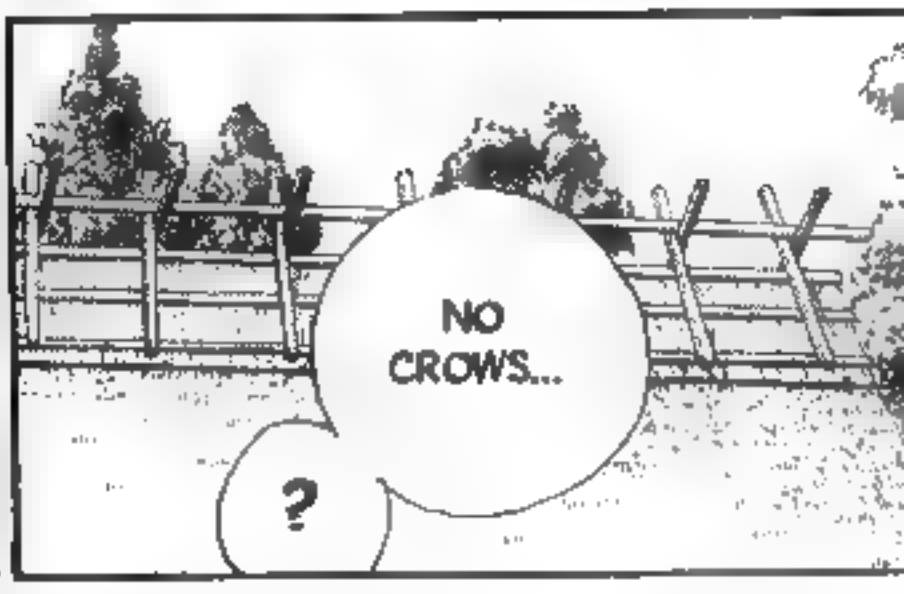
HE DEFEATED ME.

WHO THE HELL WAS THAT!?

A MONK !?


HM...


EH..?


NO
CROWS...
?

!!

OTSŪ!!

AND OTSŪ!!

THUP

WHERE'S OTSŪ!?

UH, GRANNY...

THUP

TAKUAN!!

GRANNY.

WHERE IS TAKUAN!?

ZHOOP

ZHOOP

ZHOOP

HUF

HUF

HUF

GRANNY!

...

DID HE ESCAPE?

DID TAKEZO DIE!?

NO. THAT STUBBORN OAF CAN'T BE DEAD...

IS HE DEAD!?

GASP!

WHAT IS WRONG, GRANNY?

YOU! KNOW WHY I'M HERE!

WHERE'S TAKEZO!?

YOU DIDN'T LET HIM GO, DID YOU?

TELL ME!

TAKEZŌ
IS
DEAD.

THE ROPE BROKE?

HE HAD GROWN QUITE WEAK FROM HANGING UP THERE FOR SO LONG...

...SO HE MIGHT HAVE ALREADY BEEN DEAD.

HE DIED IMMEDIATELY.

HMPH!

THE ROPE BROKE. HE FELL AND SMASHED HIS HEAD ON THE GROUND...

EH?

WHERE'S HIS BODY?

AFTER ALL, TAKEZŌ WAS A KNOWN FUGITIVE.

HIS BODY WAS TAKEN TO IKEDA TERUMASA AT HIMEJI CASTLE...

AT HIMEJI CASTLE!

...

ALL ACCORDING TO TAKUAN'S SCRIPT, EH?

HM!?

NO!!!

YOU THINK ME BLIND!?

THE ROPE BROKE, HUH?

...MEANS HE'S STILL ALIVE

THE FACT THAT YOU WON'T SHOW ME TAKEZO'S BODY

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE UP TO...

THEY LET HIM GO

THOSE TWO...

TAKUAN...

...AND OTSU!!

HUF

KRCH

KRCH

HUF

HUF

TAKEZO

YOU'RE SO HEAVY.

I'LL LET YOU CHOOSE WHERE YOU'D LIKE TO DIE.

STU

Vagabond

CDAIKOND

TAKEZO...

SO THIS IS WHERE YOUR LIFE WILL END.

...

YOU'VE CHOSEN WELL.

THERE'S A GOOD VIEW OF MIYAMOTO VILLAGE FROM HERE.

#21 | A Place in the Sun

K- KILL ME...

OH...

YOUR VOICE IS BACK. BUT I CAN HARDLY HEAR YOU.

NOW, WHAT DID YOU SAY?

THE WATER FROM MIYAMOTO VILLAGE ■ GOOD.

IT WILL REFRESH YOUR WITHERED BODY.

YOU DAMN MONK.

KILL ME.

HUF

HUF

HUF

HUF

A DARK SHADOW RUNS ACROSS YOUR FACE.

TAKEZŌ...

WHAT ELSE WOULD I WANT?

IS THAT YOUR DESIRE?

HMPH! I DON'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO YOU!

YOU'VE CUT DOWN SO MANY...

IN THE END, YOU'LL BE CUT DOWN, YOURSELF.

THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT?

...DARK...

YOUR EYES ARE SO...

...LONELY...

...AND IN PAIN.

...

YOU SHOULD REJOICE...

YOU'RE GOING TO DIE NOW.

THEN YOU HAVE LIVED YOUR LIFE TO THE FULLEST.

TAKEZO ...

WHY AREN'T YOU SMILING?

THAT'S RIGHT.

I CUT DOWN EVERYONE AROUND ME!!

AND NOW I'LL BE KILLED BY THIS DAMN MONK SPOUTING GIBBERISH!!

!

FWAK

...!!

FWAK

ANNOUNCE YOURSELF TO THE WORLD...

FWAK

BE FULL OF PRIDE!

THIS IS *MY* LIFE!!

I LIVED MY LIFE THE WAY I WANTED TO.

IT'S BEEN *SO* FULFILLING!! *HA HA HA!*

MY WONDERFUL LIFE!!

JUST KILL ME!!

KILL ME!!

SAY IT!!

THWAK

NNGH

SAY IT!!

YOU'RE DEAD!!

NNGH

YOU'RE DEAD!!

THOK

HUF

HUF

...

THOK

YOU'RE DEAD!!

...

KOFF KOFF ...

YOU CALL YOURSELF A MONK...?

IF YOU'RE SATISFIED WITH YOUR LIFE...

THOK

NNGH

I'M A *DAMN* FOOL OF A MONK.

NO...

ANNOUNCE IT TO THE WORLD!!

YOU FOOL!!

THOK

FWOOP

HUF

HUF

HUF

KRICH

HUF

HUF

HUF

THOK

THOK

WHY...?

!!

WHY WAS I BORN...?

...AND SHUNNED?

...IF ONLY TO BE ABANDONED...!

TO BE FEARED
HATED AND
DESPISED BY ALL

I'M THE
SON OF
A DEMON
AND I
DESERVE
TO DIE_

KILL
ME!

LET
ME
DIE

WHY WAS
I EVEN
BORN?

TAKEZO...

TUGG

WILL YOU THROW YOUR LIFE AWAY_?

EVEN THE PERSON *YOU USED* TO BE?

WILL YOU THROW *EVERYTHING* AWAY?

IS IT WORTH IT?

IS A LIFE OF RAGE AND MURDER TRULY HONORABLE?

TAKEZO?

NO.

THAT LIFE IS NOT FOR YOU.

IS IT TRUE...

...TAKLIAN?

DO I REALLY DESERVE TO LIVE?

SLASH

FWISH

TAKEZO...

LIVE ON AND ENDURE THE SHADOWS!!

THERE IS NO LIGHT...

...FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT KNOW DARKNESS...

HEY. THAT SOUNDS PRETTY GOOD!

TAKEZO!!

TAKEZO!

AND BRIGHTNESS SHALL COME YOUR WAY.

TAKEZŌ!!

Glossary and Extraneous Background Information

The Battle of Sekigahara (1600): The decisive battle in which Tokugawa Ieyasu effectively took control of Japan from the Toyotomi Clan. Most of the *daimyo* from eastern Japan sided with the Tokugawa whereas the *daimyo* of the west sided with the Toyotomi Clan.

Ikeda Terumasa (1564-1613): One of the great *daimyo* of the Sengoku period (1482-1558). Ikeda Terumasa sided with Ieyasu at the Battle of Sekigahara after which he was awarded with Himeji Castle and the Harima domain (located ■ modern day Hyogo Prefecture).

Takuan Soho (1573-1645): A monk of the Rinzai sect of Zen Buddhism, by the time Takuan was 37, he was appointed abbot of the leading temple of the Rinzai sect, Daitokuji. Takuan was an important figure whose acute and brutally honest advice was sought by influential and powerful figures including Go Mizuno and Tokugawa Iemitsu. His correspondence to Yagyu Munenori discussing Zen and Swordsmanship entitled ***The Unfettered Mind*** has become an influential treatise in both the areas of philosophy and martial arts. The pickled daikon radish, *takuan*, also bears his name.

The Yagyu Clan: Yagyu Muneyoshi Sekishusai (1527-1606) was the founder of the famed Yagyu-Shinkage school of sword fighting. His son Yagyu Munenori (1571-1646) was one of Tokugawa's key generals at the Battle of Sekigahara. Munenori was appointed as the official fencing instructor of the Tokugawa Clan and in 1632 the Yagyu were appointed as the *ometsuke*—responsible for the surveillance of the daimyo. Although the Yagyu clan has been depicted in Kazuo Koike's ***Lone Wolf and Cub*** as the plotters of the downfall of Itto Ogami, the general Japanese popular culture take on the Yagyu Clan is more positive. More specifically, Munenori's son, Yagyu Jubei (1607-1650), is viewed as a wandering hero protecting the people from evil-doers.

Yoshioka Kempo (dates unknown): A distinguished warrior during the *Sengoku* period (1482-1558) and the founder of the renowned Yoshioka school of sword fighting. Yoshioka Kempo mastered the **Kyohachi** style of swordmanship and then modified it to form the Yoshioka style. In the context of Inoue's ***Vagabond*** as well as in Yoshikawa's ***Musashi***, **Yoshioka Seijuro** and Denshichiro are Kempo's sons who are historically thought to have dueled with Miyamoto Musashi on numerous occasions.

About *Vagabond*

Takehiko Inoue's ***Vagabond***, based on Eiji Yoshikawa's novel ***Musashi***, is a fictional account of the life of Miyamoto Musashi (1584-1645). The historical figure Miyamoto Musashi, author of the philosophical strategy guide ***A Book of Five Rings***, was ■ master of the sword and was revered as a "sword-saint." He founded the Niten Ichi style of sword fighting which is typified by fighting with both long and short swords at once, holding the long sword with the right hand and the short sword with the left. Musashi was also a master of the "gentler arts"--he was a master of the *sumi-e* art form, metalworking, and woodcarving.

About the Author

Created by Takehiko Inoue, author of the best selling manga - ***Slam Dunk*** with over 100 million copies in print worldwide. For his work in ***Vagabond***, Inoue received the 2000 Media Arts award for Manga from the Japanese Ministry of Culture as well as the Kodansha Award for best manga. Inoue has also received the prestigious Tezuka award for his previous works. In addition to his numerous manga titles, Inoue also created the character designs for the Playstation basketball game, ***One on One***.

A note on names: The names presented within the context of this comic are presented in the traditional Japanese order--surname, followed by first name. "Miyamoto" ■ Miyamoto Musashi's last name and "Musashi" is his first name. The name of the creator of ***Vagabond***, however, has been presented first name first, last name second. "Takehiko" is the author's first name and "Inoue" is his last name.

This is the LAST page of this comic!

Vagabond has been printed to read from **right** to **left** in its original Japanese format—presenting Takehiko Inoue's dynamic artwork the way it was meant to be seen!

When most Japanese comics are published in English, a mirror image of the original artwork is printed in order to accommodate the left to right reading orientation of English. For this reason, errors in continuity occasionally occur and characters who were originally right-handed suddenly become left-handed. In order to present manga in its purest form, ***Vagabond*** is being printed to read from right to left. This way, kimono are worn with the left side over the right and the samurai's long and short swords are carried on the **left** side the way they were traditionally worn.

To properly enjoy ***Vagabond***, start from the other end of this comic and read from right to left.

I was entranced within pages of reading Vagabond; Inoue's adaptation of Yoshikawa's Musashi pulls you right into the story and doesn't let you go. **—Greg McElhatton, iComics.com**

Inoue's artwork is flat-out gorgeous. **—Randy Lander, TheFourthRail.com**

Shinmen Takezo is a young man who is destined to become the legendary sword-saint, Miyamoto Musashi—perhaps one of the most renowned samurai of all time. For now, Takezo is a cold-hearted killer, who will take on anyone in mortal combat to make a name for himself. This is the journey of a wild young brute who strives to reach enlightenment by way of the sword—fighting on the edge of death.

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